JC Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 DEC 2001

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hideo ANRAKU, et al.

Appln. No.: Based on PCT/JP99/03195

Group Art Unit: Not yet designated

Confirmation No.: Not yet designated

Examiner: Not yet designated

Filed: December 13, 2001

December 13, 2001

For:

VACUUM SAMPLE COLLECTING TUBE AND METHOD OF COLLECTING

SAMPLE UNDER VACUUM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (substitute for Form PTO-1449) and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The documents listed on Form PTO-1449 correspond to the documents cited in the International Search Report for corresponding International Application No. PCT/JP99/03195 (copy attached), and it is understood that the International Bureau has provided copies of these documents to the USPTO and that such documents should be available to the Examiner. If that

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT U.S. Appln. No.: Based on PCT/JP99/03195

Q67497

is not the case, please advise and the undersigned attorney will attempt to obtain copies and provide them to the Examiner.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed no later than three months from the application's filing date.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 13, 2001



Substitute for form 1449 A & B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

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Сотр	olete if Known
Application Number	Based on PCT/JP99/03195
Confirmation Number	Not yet designated
Filing Date	December 13, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hideo ANRAKU, et al
Art Unit	Not yet designated
Examiner Name	Not yet designated
Attorney Docket Number	Q67497

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*		Document N	umber	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		US			
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	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	
	No.1	Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
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OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ³Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is indicate here if English language Translation is attached.